

APRIL 1997

QUARANTINE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE IMPORTATION OF DOGS FROM APPROVED COUNTRIES IN WHICH DOG-MEDIATED RABIES IS ABSENT OR WELL-CONTROLLED

1. These conditions apply to the importation of dogs from certain countries and territories recognized by the Australian Government as countries or territories in which dog-mediated rabies is absent or well controlled. A list of approved countries and territories in which dog-mediated rabies is absent or well controlled is at Appendix 1. The list is subject to change. Importers should check with the Principal Veterinary Officer (Quarantine) [PVO(Q)] at the time of applying for an import permit.
2. These conditions form part of the permit to Import. The complete current Import Permit must accompany the dog into Australia.
3. Each dog being imported must also be accompanied by Veterinary Certificate A signed by the registered veterinarian or Official Veterinarian who has performed the treatments and examinations specified in these conditions, and Veterinary Certificate B signed by an Official Veterinarian of the exporting country or territory.

[An Official Veterinarian is a civil service veterinarian or a specially appointed veterinarian as authorized by the Veterinary Administration of the exporting country or territory and able to sign certificates on behalf of that Veterinary Administration. In the case of dogs imported from the USA, the Veterinary Certificate B must be signed by an USDA/APHIS Veterinarian.]

The Veterinary certificates A and B must be in English. The dog must be certified as having met the residency, disease testing, treatment and clinical health requirements specified in these conditions. The certification must also include the following information:

- a. age or date of birth of the dog,
- b. the sex, breed, color, coat type and markings, including distinguishing marks,
- c. identifying microchip number, type and implantation site,
- d. place of residency of the dog for the past six (6) months, and information about previous places of residency as specified.
- e. name and address of the exporter,
- f. name and address of the consignee,
- g. means of transport.

Each page of Veterinary Certificate A, the laboratory reports and vaccination certificates must be stamped with an Official Stamp of the Government of the exporting country and be endorsed by signature and date by the Official Veterinarian who completes Veterinary Certificate B.

[Corrections to entries made in the certificates will only be accepted in the following circumstances:

- correction fluid must not be used, and
- the original entry has been struck through and remains legible and the correction is written adjacent to the original (for example, Breed: ~~Fox~~ *Terrier Beagle*), and
- each correction has been signed by the Official Veterinarian.]

****NOTE: Veterinary Certificates A and B have been provided to each Area Office in a hard copy format. The exporter may have a copy of these which was included with their import permit. Please encourage them to use the certificates we have developed instead, as they are specific for animals from**

the US.

GENERAL CONDITIONS

4. Residency

- 4.1 The dog must have been continuously resident in the country or territory of export for at least six (6) months prior to export, and must not have been in quarantine or under quarantine restriction during the thirty (30) days immediately preceding export, except that
- 4.2 dogs imported directly from Australia into the country or territory of export may return to Australia with less than six (6) months residency under the following additional conditions:
- the dog has resided continuously in the country or territory of export since being imported directly from Australia, and
 - the dog was vaccinated against rabies with an approved inactivated rabies vaccine at least one (1) month and not more than six (6) months prior to leaving Australia when the dog was at least three (3) months of age, and
 - the dog was identified by microchip prior to, or at the time of, rabies vaccination in Australia, and
 - the dog has been subjected to a serum rabies neutralizing antibody titre test no less than 60 days, and no more than 12 months prior to re-export to Australia with satisfactory results (at least 0.5 IU/ml).

Applicants seeking permission to re-import a dog/s under these conditions will be required to provide proof of the rabies vaccination, rabies neutralizing antibody titre test result and microchip identification.

5. Prohibited breeds

Dogs of the following breeds are prohibited from importation into Australia:

- dogo Argentino
- fila Brasileiro
- Japanese tosa
- pit bull terrier or American pit bull.

6. Pregnancy Status

Bitches more than six (6) weeks pregnant at the time of export and bitches suckling young are ineligible for importation.

7. Age restriction

Dogs under six (6) months of age at the time of export are ineligible for importation.

8. Post-entry quarantine period

The dog imported under these conditions will be required to serve a period of quarantine in an approved animal quarantine station after arrival (see Section 24 below).

SANITARY CONDITIONS

9. Rabies vaccination

9.1 Vaccination regime

The dog must have been vaccinated against rabies with an approved inactivated vaccine when at least three (3) months of age according to one of the following regimes:

- in the case of a primovaccination, not less than 90 days and not more than twelve (12) months prior to export; OR
- if the primovaccination was given more than twelve (12) months prior to export the dog must have been given a booster vaccination within the twelve (12) months prior to export; OR
- in the case of a dog being returned to Australia under the conditions at 4.2 above, the vaccination regime specified therein.

The vaccination certificate/s, or copies endorsed by an Official Veterinarian, for these rabies vaccinations must be sent with the application for an Import Permit. An Import Permit will not be issued if the vaccination details do not comply with the above conditions.

9.2 Rabies neutralizing antibody titre testing

To ensure that the rabies vaccination/s is effective the dog must undergo a rabies neutralizing antibody titre test with a satisfactory result (satisfactory is at least 0.5 IU/ml.). The animal's identifying microchip number must be used to identify the test sample and must appear on the laboratory reports.

The first rabies test must be performed not less than 60 days and not more than twelve (12) months prior to the date of export. The laboratory report from this test must be endorsed by the Official Veterinarian and be sent with the application for an Import Permit. An Import Permit which includes these conditions will not be issued if the laboratory report is not satisfactory.

9.3 Identification for vaccination/sampling

The dog must be identifiable by a microchip implanted at or before the time of sampling for the rabies neutralizing antibody titre test performed to ensure the dog is eligible for importation. In the case of a dog being returned to Australia with less than six months residency in the country of export, the microchip must have been implanted prior to, or at the time of, rabies vaccination in Australia.

10. Other vaccinations

The dog must have been vaccinated against distemper, infectious hepatitis, canine parvovirus, and parainfluenza at least fourteen (14) days and not more than twelve (12) months prior to export.

The vaccination certificate/s, or copies endorsed by an Official Veterinarian, for these vaccinations must be attached to the Veterinary Certificates.

11. Brucellosis

- 11.1 The dog must be tested for *Brucella canis* infection by a serum agglutination test*, on a sample collected within forty five (45) days prior to export, with a negative result (negative is less than 50% agglutination at a serum dilution of 1:100).
- 11.2 The laboratory report, or a copy endorsed by an Official Veterinarian, must be attached to the Veterinary Certificates.
- 11.3 In the time period between sampling for brucellosis testing and arrival in Australia, the dog or bitch must not be naturally mated and, in the case of a bitch, must not be artificially inseminated.

*** the use if any other test requires prior written permission from AQIS**

12. Ehrlichiosis

- 12.1 The dog must be tested for *Ehrlichia canis* infection by the indirect fluorescent antibody test*, on a sample collected within forty five (45) days prior to export, with negative results.
- 12.2 Within 24 hours following collection of blood for this test, the dog must receive treatment with a long acting acaricide.
- 12.3 The laboratory report, or a copy endorsed by an Official Veterinarian, must be attached to the Veterinary Certificates.

*** the use of any other test requires prior written permission from AQIS**

13. Leptospirosis

The dog must be tested for *Leptospira interrogans* var. *canicola* infection by serum agglutination test, prior to export by EITHER of the following regimes:

- i) a single test within 21 days of export, having less than 50% agglutination at a serum dilution of 1:100 (i.e. negative result),
OR
- ii) in the case of vaccinated dogs only, two tests, the first within 45 days of export and the second no less than 14 days after the first, each having a positive titer of not more than 1:400, the second sample must show no increase in titer above that of the first test.

The vaccination certificate, when applicable, and the laboratory report, or a copy endorsed by an Official Veterinarian, must be attached to the Veterinary Certificates.

14. Babesia canis

This clause applies to dogs which have spent part or all of their lives in a country of Africa.

The dog must be treated with imidocarb dipropionate (Forray-65, by Hoechst) or (Imizol, by Coopers) at a rate of 7.5mg/kg bodyweight by subcutaneous injection between 5 and 3 days prior to export.

15. Internal parasites

Within fourteen (14) days prior to export the dog must be treated with approved anthelmintics effective against nematodes and cestodes. The active ingredient/s and dose rate must be recorded on Veterinary Certificate A.

16. External parasites

Within 24 hours following collection of blood for testing for canine ehrlichiosis, the dog must be treated with an acaricide, and treatments must be repeated according to the manufacturers instructions in order to prevent infestation with ticks from this first application until export of the dog. (refer to 12.2 above)

17. Pre-export inspection

Within 48 hours prior to export the dog must be examined by a registered veterinarian or an Official Veterinarian and found to be free from clinical signs of infectious or contagious disease including transmissible venereal tumor, and external parasites, and to be fit to travel.

18. Laboratory testing

All immunological tests are to be carried out by an official diagnostic laboratories approved by the competent authority of the exporting country. An approved laboratory need not be situated in the country of export.

TRANSPORT

19. If being consigned by air the dog must be consigned to Australia in a container of no lesser standard than that required by CONTAINER REQUIREMENT 1 of the International Air Transport Association (IATA) Live Animals Regulations. This specifies, among other things, that the container must:

- be strong enough to prevent the animal escaping;
- have one end open and covered with bars, weld mesh, or smooth expanded metal securely attached, to provide the main ventilation opening;
- have ventilation openings on all sides totalling a minimum of 16% of the surface area of the four sides;
- only have ventilation openings of such size that it is impossible for the animal to protrude its nose or paws outside the container;
- be large enough to permit the animal to stand in a natural position, turn around and lie down; and
- contain a drinking bowl to which water can be added without opening the container.

In addition the container must be sealed with an official seal/s prior to departure from the country or territory of export and the number/s on the seal/s recorded on Veterinary Certificate B. The construction of the container and the placement of the seal/s must be such that the container cannot be readily opened without breaking the seal/s.

20. If being consigned by sea, the Master of the vessel and the Port Authority must certify that the dog was confined on board and had no contact with other animals at each port of call.

21. During transport to Australia the dog must be transported to the port of export only through countries and parts of the territory of countries to

which these conditions apply or which are rabies free. It must not be trans-shipped (change of aircraft or vessel) other than in a rabies free country or territory or in a country or territory to which these conditions apply. Trans-shipment will require the approval of the relevant authority in the country of trans-shipment as well as the prior approval of the PVO(Q).

If the container is opened during transit or trans-shipment it should be resealed and a certificate should be provided by an Official Veterinarian, Port Authority or the Captain of the aircraft detailing the circumstances. Instructions to this effect should be attached to the outside of the container before departure from the port of export.

POST ARRIVAL QUARANTINE

22. **WARNING: Dogs for export to Australia must have complied with all of the above conditions prior to export to Australia.**
23. Dogs which arrive in a container that is unsealed, or with a broken seal, with incorrect or incomplete certification, or with a rabies neutralizing antibody titer less than 0.5 IU/ml; may, at the discretion of the PVO(Q) and at the importer's expense, be exported, or destroyed, or treated, or required to remain in quarantine until any exotic disease concerns are resolved.
24. Each dog imported under these conditions will be required to serve a period of quarantine in an approved animal quarantine station after arrival.
 - (a) Dogs validly returning to Australia with less than six months residency in the country of export must serve at least thirty (30) days quarantine.
 - (b) In the case of other eligible dogs the length of quarantine period depends on the timing of the rabies neutralizing antibody titer test (showing an antibody level of at least 0.5 IU/ml). No dog shall serve less than 30 days in quarantine irrespective of the dates of its rabies vaccinations and tests. Otherwise, the minimum quarantine period is such that no dog will be released from quarantine until at least 180 days following the certified date of collection of the blood sample for the rabies neutralization test that was used to obtain the import permit attached to these conditions. For example:

| <u>Collection of sample for rabies neutralizing antibody titer test</u> | <u>minimum quarantine period</u> |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 150 days prior to arrival in Australia. | 30 days |
| 135 days prior to arrival in Australia. | 45 days |
| 120 days prior to arrival in Australia. | 60 days |
| 90 days prior to arrival in Australia. | 90 days |

25. During quarantine the dog may be subjected to any additional testing or treatment, as specified by AQIS, at the importer's expense.

APPENDIX 1:

APPROVED COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES RECOGNISED BY THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT AS COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES IN WHICH DOG-MEDIATED RABIES IS ABSENT OR WELL CONTROLLED - MINIMUM OF 30 DAYS QUARANTINE & RABIES VACCINATION

Austria, Bahamas, Belgium, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Brunei, Canada, Cayman Islands, Denmark, France, Finland, Germany, Greece, Greenland, Hong Kong, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg, Mauritius, Peninsular Malaysia, Netherlands, Netherlands Antilles and Aruba, Portugal, Sabah, Sarawak, Seychelles, Spain, Switzerland, United Arab Emirates, United States of America

APPENDIX 2:

ADDRESSES OF PRINCIPAL VETERINARY OFFICERS (QUARANTINE)

For quarantine at Eastern Creek (NSW) apply to:

Principal Veterinary Officer (Quarantine)
Quarantine Inspection Centre
PO Box 657
Mascot NSW 2020
Telephone: (02) 3647222 Facsimile: (02) 3647350

For quarantine at Spotswood (Vic.) apply to:

Principal Veterinary Officer (Quarantine)
Quarantine Services Building
PO Box 1006
Tullamarine, Victoria 3043
Telephone: (03) 3383344 Facsimile: (03) 3380844

For quarantine at Byford (WA) apply to:

Principal Veterinary Officer (Quarantine)
Department of Agriculture
PO Box 1410
Canning Vale, WA 6970
Telephone: (09) 3115333 Facsimile: (09) 4553052